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PATENT

BRANCH PREDICTION CIRCUITS AND METHODS  
AND SYSTEMS USING THE SAME

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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A method of generating a Global History Vector includes the steps of determining if a selected group of instructions contains a branch instruction. A current Global History Vector is maintained in a shift register when the selected group does not contain a branch instruction. A first value is shifted into the shift register to generate a second vector if the selected group contains a branch instruction which is predicted to be a branch taken. A second value is shifted into the shift register to generate a second vector when the selected group contains a branch instruction and the selected group does not include a branch instruction predicted to be a branch taken.

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